



MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 26 OCTOBER 2017

City of Gold Coast achieves excellence in public works

The City of Gold Coast has taken out three accolades at this year's Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia, Queensland (IPWEAQ) Excellence Awards.

The awards recognise councils and individuals who have demonstrated best practice and innovation in public works projects across Queensland.

City of Gold Coast collected awards for design and construction of public works projects under \$2 million and projects \$2 million to \$5 million for the Surfers Paradise Orchid Avenue Urilift Public Amenity and the Sarawak Avenue Steel Footbridge Renewal respectively.

The City of Gold Coast was also recognised as this year's overall winner with the Sarawak Avenue Steel Footbridge Renewal taking home the top prize of the evening.

The steel footbridge over Currumbin Creek was originally constructed as a railway bridge in 1903 and eventually converted to a pedestrian footbridge in 1994. Severe deterioration of structural components was occurring despite ongoing maintenance works. The City of Gold Coast determined a course of action to deliver a structurally sound reliable bridge whilst still retaining the heritage features of the original bridge. The project has also delivered improved services to the community through the provision of a wider footbridge, improved safety features including cyclist friendly balustrade and LED lighting incorporated into the balustrade and with a major reduction in ongoing maintenance costs.

The first of its kind in Australia, the Surfers Paradise Orchid Avenue Urilift Public Amenity is the City of Gold Coast's solution to problematic night time public urination in the popular party precinct. The retractable "pop-up" public amenity, pioneered in the Netherlands, provides an easily accessible public amenity to female and male patrons at night while having minimum impact on the precinct during the day time.

A total of 20 awards were presented at the gala dinner and awards ceremony held at the Ville Resort, Townsville where 350 of the state's leading authorities on engineering gathered for the annual state conference.

IPWEAQ Chief Executive Officer Leigh Cunningham said the 2017 awards had attracted a record number of nominations, with 55 projects and 11 individual nominations submitted from councils both large and small across Queensland.

“Introduced in 2002 the awards aim to recognise excellence, innovation, forward thinking and sustainability in the delivery of projects that benefit Queensland communities,” Ms Cunningham said.

“Winners in each category are selected by a judging panel of experienced public works professionals based on the project submission.

“The criteria addresses innovation but also stakeholder engagement and the contribution to the community and local economy.

“There are considerable benefits for winners including industry acknowledgement and recognition from their local mayor, councillors and community.

“The respect and exposure the awards bring enables Queenslanders to see the value of the projects delivered for their community that they might not otherwise appreciate in terms of innovation and excellence.

“It also creates awareness for the engineers delivering these projects as they are specialists in their field dedicated to public service and making a difference to our communities across the state.”

The winners of each award will be featured in IPWEAQ’s quarterly e-journal, *Engineering for Public Works* and in the annual awards commemorative book and have the honour of applying the highly regarded winners’ seal to promote their projects and council.

“The awards ceremony is always a highlight and there is an enormous amount of respect given to the award nominees as well as the winners,” Ms Cunningham said.

–ENDS–

About IPWEAQ

IPWEAQ is the peak body representing those working in the public works sector in Queensland. Anyone actively engaged in the delivery of public works and services in Queensland is eligible to join.

Our purpose is to enhance the quality of life for all Queensland communities by advancing the skills, knowledge, resources available to those involved in the planning and provision of public works and services.

www.ipweaq.com

For further information contact:

Carlie Sargent, Director Member Services on 0418 759 450 or carlie.sargent@ipweaq.com